
Remarks

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.115, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the above amendments. No new matter has been added.

The amendments to the specification are to provide clarity and consistency in reference to the cooperating fastener component. Additional amendments to the specification are to correct references to figures. These amendments merely conform the identified text to other portions of the specification.

The amendments to claims 4, 13, 20, 22 and 27 correct missing antecedent basis. The amendment to claim 12 shows corrects its dependency.

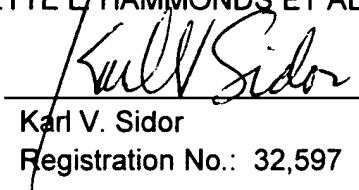
Please charge any prosecutorial fees which are due to Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. deposit account number 11-0875.

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Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I, Catherine E. Wolf, hereby certify that on June 7, 2002, this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By:


Catherine E. Wolf

Marked-Up Version of the Specification Amendments

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 2, line 27 are as follows:

The [second] cooperating fastener component is a loop material. Desirably, the loop material is a nonwoven loop material. More desirably, the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material. For example, the nonwoven loop material may be a pattern unbonded material such as, for example, the material described in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,858,515 and/or 5,763,041, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 4, line 21 are as follows:

Desirably, the [second] cooperating component is a nonwoven loop material. More desirably, the nonwoven loop material is a pattern unbonded material.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 5, line 7 are as follows:

a cooperating fastener component on an upper surface of the wing such that the wings of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by bringing the [top] upper and [bottom] lower [surface] surfaces of respective wings into an overlapping and interengaging configuration; wherein the interengaged wings are adapted to secure the sanitary napkin to an undergarment and further present an unengaged first fastener component adjacent the backsheet so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment positioned between the backsheet and the wings.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 7, line 5 are as follows:

With reference to the Figures, an article, such as a sanitary napkin 10 illustrated in FIGS. 1A-D has a lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26, a lateral cross-direction 24, and a longitudinally extending medial line 40. The article includes a first article portion, a second article portion and at least one fastener 36 for securing the first article portion to the second article portion. Such securement can, for example, be configured to thereby hold the article on a wearer. The fastener includes at least one, first fastener component 70 attached to an appointed section of the first and second article portion, and a cooperating[, second] fastener component 72 attached to or integral with the first and second article portion. The first fastener component 70 includes an engagement section having a first plurality of engagement members 56. Each engagement member 56 has a stem portion 58 with a distal end region 44, and has at least one securement element 60 disposed at its corresponding distal end region.

The plurality of engagement members has an arrangement pattern of their securement elements. It is contemplated that multiple pluralities of engagement members, each with different arrangement pattern of their securement elements, may be used.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 7, line 29 are as follows:

In particular configurations, a majority of the plurality of non-isotropic engagement members have their engagement openings directed substantially orthogonal to an attachment direction. Generally speaking, the attachment direction is the direction in which the respective first and second portions of the article are brought together into an overlapping and interengaging relationship. Thus, in [FIG. 1] FIGS 1A and 1D, the attachment direction is generally a direction having a cross-directional vector-component along the lateral direction 24 and toward the medial line 40 of the article. Accordingly, the plurality of non-isotropic engagement members would have their engagement openings directed substantially parallel with the medial line 40 of the article.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 9, line 20 are as follows:

The following is a brief description of the orientation direction with respect to the lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26 and the lateral cross-wise direction depicted in [FIG. 1] FIGS. 1A and 1D. In one exemplary sanitary napkin, the orienting the axis of maximal engagement of the first fastener component in the attachment direction meant orienting the first fastener component so its axis of maximal engagement was in the cross-machine direction or the lateral cross-direction 24 shown in [FIG. 1] FIGS. 1A and 1D. Thus, for that sanitary napkin, the orienting the axis of maximal engagement of the first fastener component generally orthogonal to the attachment direction meant orienting the first fastener component so its axis of maximal engagement was in the machine direction or the lengthwise, longitudinal direction 26 shown in [FIG. 1] FIGS. 1A and 1D.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 9, line 30 are as follows:

One feature of the present invention is evident from FIG. 1E which illustrates a portion of a multi-fastening system or secondary attachment system. FIG. 1E shows a pair of wings or flaps 36 and 36' each having a first fastener component 70 affixed to the wing so as to face the baffle or peel strip of an article as well as a [second] cooperating fastener component 72 affixed to or integral with wing so as to face the opposite side of the wing (i.e., the side of the wind facing away from the baffle or peel strip).

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 12, line 21 are as follows:

A configuration which employs a selectively releasable, interengaging mechanical fastening system can, for example, locate the first fastener component 70 on at least the appointed mating or securing surface of the tabs, flaps or wings 36 and 36', and can locate the cooperating[, second] fastener component on the appointed engagement surface of the appointed tabs, flaps or wings 36 and 36'. For example, with the representatively shown hook-and-loop fastener, the fastening component which is attached to the appointed mating or securing surface of the fastener tabs 36 and 36' may include a hook type of mechanical engagement element, and the complementary fastening component, which is operably joined and attached to the appointed surface of the fastener tabs 36 and 36' can include a loop type of fastening element.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 16, line 25 are as follows:

In the various configurations of the invention, the engagement force between the selected first fastener component and its appointed and cooperating [second] fastener component should be large enough and durable enough to provide an adequate securement of the article on the wearer during use. In particular arrangements, especially where there are sufficiently high levels of engagement shear force provided by the fastening system, the fastening engagement may provide a peel force value of not less than a minimum of about 40 grams-force (gmf) per inch of the "width" of engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. In further arrangements, the fastening engagement may provide a peel force value of not less than about 100 gmf/inch to provide improved advantages. In desired configurations, the fastening engagement may provide a peel force value of not less than about 200 gmf per inch of the "width" of engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components . Alternatively, the peel force is not less than about 300 gmf/inch, and optionally is not less than about 400 gmf/inch to further provide improved benefits. In other aspects, the peel force is not more than about 1,200 gmf/inch. Alternatively, the peel force is not more than about 800 gmf/inch, and optionally is not more than about 600 gmf/inch to provide improved performance.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 17, line 8 are as follows:

The engagement force between the selected first fastener component and its appointed and cooperating [second] fastener component may additionally provide a shear force value of not less than about 400 gmf per square inch of the area of engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. Alternatively, the shear force is not less than about 1,000 gmf/in², and optionally, is not less than about 1,700 gmf/in². In further aspects, the shear force can be up to about 4,400

gmf/in², or more. Alternatively, the shear force is not more than about 3,900 gmf/in², and optionally is not more than about 3,500 gmf/in² to provide improved performance.

Amendments made to the paragraph starting on page 19, line 4 are as follows:

With respect to the engagement between the first fastener component and the fabric of the undergarment, it is generally thought that the peel strength and shear force values will generally be lower than the values measured between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. While it is contemplated that the engagement between the first fastener component and the fabric of the undergarment may be greater than the engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components, it is generally thought that the engagement may be some fraction or ratio (less than 1) of the engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. For example, the engagement between the first fastener component and the fabric may be more than 10 percent lower than the engagement between the first and [second] cooperating fastener components. As another example, the engagement may be more than 20 percent lower to about 99 percent lower. As another example, the engagement may be more than 40 percent. As yet another example, the engagement may be more than 50 percent lower. As still another example, the engagement may be more than 74 percent lower.

Marked-Up Version of the Claim Amendments

4. (amended) The sanitary napkin of claim 1, wherein the [second] cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

12. (amended) The multiple attachment system of [claim 10] claim 11, wherein each substantially non-isotropic engagement member has a stem portion with a distal end region and a securement element disposed at the distal end region of its corresponding stem portion.

13. (amended) The multiple attachment system of claim 10, wherein the [second] cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

20. (amended) The sanitary napkin of claim 19, wherein the first fastener component is oriented so its axis of substantially maximal engagement is generally orthogonal to [the] an attachment direction.

22. (amended) The sanitary napkin of claim 17, wherein the [second] cooperating fastener component is a nonwoven loop material.

27. (amended) A sanitary napkin having a pair of end edges, a first longitudinal edge and a second longitudinal edge located between the end edges, a backsheet layer, a substantially liquid permeable topsheet layer and an absorbent disposed between the topsheet layer and the backsheet layer;

the sanitary napkin further including a pair of wings, each wing extending a longitudinal edge of the sanitary napkin and each wing having a fixed end and a free end; each wing comprising:

a first fastener component on a lower surface of the wing, the first fastener component including an engagement section having a plurality engagement members; and

a cooperating fastener component on an upper surface of the wing such that the wings of the sanitary napkin are capable of being joined by bringing the [top] upper and [bottom] lower [surface] surfaces of respective wings into an overlapping and interengaging configuration;

wherein the interengaged wings are adapted to secure the sanitary napkin to an undergarment and further present an unengaged first fastener component adjacent the backsheet so it is adapted to engage the fabric of an undergarment positioned between the backsheet and the wings.